PONTELAND REPERTORY SOCIETY

# DRINKING HABITS

## MARCH 2026

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Whether you are staging a musical, an opera, a play, a concert or a pantomime, as the UK's leading amateur theatre membership organisation, NODA is here for, every show, every rehearsal, every curtain call – here for our members every step of the way.

From just starting out to centre stage; village halls to professional venues; NODA exists to celebrate, connect, support and amplify amateur theatre and theatre groups across the UK.

We provide invaluable services, expertise and resources - that help thousands of our member groups create and produce theatre, that enhances lives and benefits communities everywhere.

Whatever your passion, level of experience or stage of life, we are here to help everyone enjoy the unique benefits, opportunities and sense of community that live performance can bring.

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For every stage

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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

2025 seems to have flown by and here we are at the Spring show of 2026. When you take a moment to reflect, we have achieved a huge amount. It started with the NODA Award Winning performance of *Glorious - The true story of 'Florence Foster Jenkins the worst singer in the world'* in which our leading lady Claire Long collected a NODA award for her performance as Florence. From there we went straight into the 3rd concert of the Pont Rep Choir's 'Musical Memories' at St Marys' Church & St John's at Kingston Park, performing a series of show tunes from *Les Miserables*, *Kiss Me Kate*, Sondheim and many more, to two very appreciative audiences. We finished the year with pantomime *Thumbelina*, written, directed & choreographed by the superhuman force of nature that is Hayley Grant, which collectively delighted audiences and NODA alike. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee who have all worked tirelessly to support these events.

At this point I would like to draw your attention to 2027 in so far as it is the Ponteland Repertory Society's Centenary celebration, which is a phenomenal achievement for a small amateur dramatic society to be creating quality productions and delighting the local community for that long! Needless to say we are planning something a little bit special in 2027 so please watch this space. Back to 2026 we are hoping to squeeze in another Super Quiz early summer and we complete the season in November with a new Juke Box Musical *A Christmas Carol*, the story that you know and love but the music has been transformed to take it to the next level!

I hope you will take full advantage of the exciting and varied programme we have lined up over the course of the next year. All tickets either are or will be available on the website www.pontelandrep.co.uk

Thank you for joining us tonight for Ponteland Repertory Society's performance of *Drinking Habits*, and I look forward to seeing you all again very soon. In the meantime for the latest news and updates and some hilarious reels, please follow us on: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok.

Jason Long (Chairman)

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to *Drinking Habits*! It has been an absolute joy to dive into this hilarious script from day one. I am incredibly grateful to the committee and the Rep for their continued trust, giving me the space to flex my creative muscles and bring this vision to life.

To my cast: thank you for going above and beyond. Your dedication has been inspiring, and watching each of you breathe such unique life into these characters has been the highlight of this journey.

Of course, the magic on stage wouldn't be possible without the powerhouse teams behind the scenes. From the precision of lights and sound to the resourcefulness of the set construction, and the warm welcome from our Front of House/refreshments teams, thank you for keeping everything moving so seamlessly.

Finally, thank you to you, our audience. Your support is the reason we can continue putting on such fantastic shows. I truly hope you enjoy the performance, and I look forward to seeing you all again in November as we embark on a brand-new journey together for my first-ever jukebox musical, *A Musical Christmas Carol*. Enjoy the show!

Hayley Grant (Director)

# CAST

## SALLY
## Sarah May

Sarah joined the rep in 2017 and, after a break, she re-joined us for our 2024 musical *Miracle on 34th Street* and last year played Swifty in *Thumbelina rhe Panto.* Her passion for the stage began with *Blood Brothers*, a favourite since her first West End visit.
Sarah is looking forward to taking on the role of Sally.

## PAUL
## Jake Langley

Jake has a degree in Screen Performance from Sunderland Uni, along with credits for TV, Film and Immersive Theatre. He was also one of the founding members of one of the UK's biggest immersive scare attractions where he won multiple awards for directing. Jake is excited to be stepping onto the stage in his first theatre performance with the Rep.

## MOTHER SUPERIOR
## Claire Long

Claire returned to the stage as one of the Wicked Witches in our 2022 production of *The Wizard of Oz.* She was Miss Prism in our performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest* in 2023, Brie in our 2023 Panto *Beauty and the Beast*, and won a NODA Award for her role of Florence in *Glorious* last year.

## FATHER CHENILLE
## Jason Long

Jason is our beloved Chairman and one of our experienced actors who has worked with amateur societies across the country and Geneva. Since joining the Rep 15 years ago he has been a regular feature in productions and has played a multitude of roles from Dames to Dads to a recent love interest and a mole!

# CAST

## SISTER AUGUSTA
## Sarah Blythe

Sarah is a long serving member of The Rep, having partaken in many shows and pantos over the years. In more recent years, Sarah has enjoyed taking on the challenge of bigger roles, such as The Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* in 2022, Anne in *A Tomb with a View* and the title role in *Thumbelina The Panto* in 2025.

## SISTER PHILAMENA
## Suzie Neve

Suzie joined the Rep and has taken on roles such as Sacre Bleu, Forchette and Tracy in *Beauty and the Beast* in 2023, Emily in *A Tomb with a View* in 2024, Mrs Verrinder-Gedge in *Glorious* in 2025 and Flower Fairy in *Thumbelina The Panto* in 2025. A soprano soloist in Sing Once More and a founding member of The DisREPutables, she is currently studying HNC/HND Performing Arts.

## SISTER MARY CATHERINE
## Emma Griffiths

Emma is a veteran of the stage in panto (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, etc.), comedy (*Harvey* and *Breath of Spring*) and drama (*Dumbwaiter* and *Pillowman*). She joined the Rep for *Miracle on 34th Street* in 2024. Emma is enjoying the challenge of this role and looking forward to being back on the stage.

## GEORGE
## Peter Errington

Peter, a longstanding member of Preppies Youth Theatre, is no stranger to treading the boards with past Rep shows for many years. Peter returns to the Rep as a full member after having finished his degree at University.. He took on the role of Maria in *Glorious* in 2025 and one half of our comedy duo as Froggy in *Thumbelina thr Panto* in 2025.

Director - Hayley Grant
Assistant Director - Kieran Murray
Stage Manager - Iona Griffiths
Lights & Sound - ATR Sound & Light
Set & Props - David Cooksey
Prompt - Hayley Grant

*Special thanks to Janice Blythe and the entire FOH team.*

Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. Wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves.

PONTELAND REPERTORY SOCIETY

# A Musical Christmas Carol

PONTELAND MEMORIAL HALL, DARRAS RD, PONTELAND, NE20 9NX

| 13 NOV | 14 NOV | 14 NOV | 15 NOV |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7PM | 2PM | 7PM | 2PM |

Adults £12

Under 16 £8

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TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND ON THE DOOR

# VINTAGE INNS

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